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The clergy were working with me on my side. I'll tell you why. See, I'm a Catholic, and they were working with me, and I was working with them. We were trying to promote a better business, and give the fishermen a square deal. When I came here, they were getting about 4 to 7 cents a pound for lobster. I started the price up, buying--if I bought--14 cents a pound. But the most of it was on consignment. Consignment means it was shipped to the market at a higher price--the fishermen would get a little more on consignment than selling outright here. But some of them would rather get the cash right away. I glutted the market at our place two or three times. In 1935, I think it was, I glutted the market, I think, with about 14 million pounds of lobsters. I had about 6 or 7 boats that were always loaded. We had a well-smack boat and we had trucks. We had the railroad. And we had the Nova Scotia Shipping Company. My best spot was in Cape Breton here, from Point Michaud to Scatarie Island. And when I glutted the market, the company called me to tell me not to ship any more--"We can't handle them." "Well," I said, "I can stop buying, but you can't stop them from consigning. If you do, we're licked. They'll ship somewhere else." (And I guess the price goes down when you glut the market.) Oh yes. Well, the price sometimes wasn't too darn high, but they never got below 18c up. (Starting off, you would go to a town....) We'd hold meetings with the fishermen. At Grand River, Canso, Petit de Grat, L'Ardoise, Little Bras d'Or. Meeting in Newfoundland. Meeting around Halifax--all along the shore, wherever I'd be called. When I was called, from the clergymen or somebody at the head--a kind of a union they had, you know--they'd call me. But there was no real union. They'd group, in other words, they'd group and they'd work together. (Would fishermen's organizations help your business?) Oh, that was good. I liked it. I told them to organize. My company didn't mind that. (And the Antigonish Movement...) I used to work with one of them there in Antigonish. He was always after me to go to Newfoundland. Till they arranged among the clergymen to send me there. Oh, that was good, the Antigonish Movement. They were working with me, too. I had a clergyman tell the audience in a church in West Arichat to ship through me. At the sermon, see. Father Barrie was the same thing. He was more of a watchman--see that the lobsters were kept anchored, you know, nobody'd steal them. Even Fr. Boyd, who is now a bishop--he was a great friend of mine. Way up near Halifax, Canso--Fr. Bourdreau was 100% with me. He made 9 trips to Boston with me in the years I was in business. I slept in the glebe house. They all knew me. Fr. Poirier, of course, we didn't get along too well, because he didn't think we were paying enough. But he wasn't against me, in one way. I had no trouble. Lots of times I didn't care whether I got them or not. I was afraid of glutting the market, I'd rather somebody else got a share of it. (Up to that point, was someone local buying their lobsters?) Oh, yeah--for nothing. Lobster factories. Used to buy them for 3 /-r

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